

Application No. 10/689,397
Amendment Dated 2/15/06
Reply to Office Action of 11/15/05

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1-25. CANCELED.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of popping corn in a plurality of batches from batches of corn and oil loaded into a kettle, beginning with a cold start batch and then subsequent batches, including the ~~[[step]]~~ steps of:

for a cold start batch, applying heat to the kettle ~~according to a first~~
without PID temperature control ~~algorithm~~ to pop the popping corn of the cold start batch within the kettle; and

for a subsequent batch, applying heat to the kettle ~~according to a second~~
with PID temperature control ~~algorithm~~ to pop the popping corn of the subsequent batch within the kettle.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 26 wherein ~~the first temperature control algorithm permits the kettle to heat~~ heats to proximate a maximum first temperature without PID temperature control during a cold batch start.

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28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 27 wherein ~~the second~~
~~temperature control algorithm permits the kettle to heat~~ heats to proximate a maximum
second temperature with PID temperature control during a subsequent batch.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 28 wherein the first
maximum temperature is higher than the second maximum temperature.

30. (WITHDRAWN) A method of popping corn in a plurality of batches from
batches of corn and oil loaded into a kettle, beginning with a cold start batch and then
subsequent batches, including the steps of:

for a cold start batch, applying heat to the kettle so that the kettle reaches
a thermal equilibrium during the popping cycle of the cold start batch to pop the popping
corn of the cold start batch; and

for subsequent batches, popping the popping corn of the subsequent batches while the
kettle has obtained thermal equilibrium.